

Long Knife News

VOL. 1, ISSUE 2

JRTC EDITION

WWW.HOOD.ARMY.MIL/1STCAVDIV/UNITS/4BCT/INDEX.HTM



Commander's Corner

**By Col. Philip Battaglia
4th BCT Commander**

Long Knife Family: This rotation at the Joint Readiness Training Center is the culminating event as we approach our deployment this summer.

From private to colonel, we have all learned much and improved immensely – we are ready! As of April 1, the Long Knife Brigade will be the Army's best trained brigade combat team.

Although not easy on our Soldiers and Families, I am confident all of this training will pay dividends once we deploy.

Once we redeploy from Fort Polk, we will prepare and load our equipment for shipment to theater. The pace of operations in April will be demanding, but we have scheduled a block leave period from May 10 to May 27.

We will begin deployment operations into theater shortly after block leave.

I could not be more proud of how our Soldiers are performing here in Louisiana.

You should all be extremely proud of the professionalism and dedication I've seen not only here at JRTC, but during my entire command.

Now that reflagging from 4th Infantry Division to 1st Cavalry Division is complete, we are officially part of America's First Team. Just as many of you helped write the history of the 4th Inf. Div. in Iraq, we will now do the same for the proud lineage of the 1st Cav. Div.

I strongly encourage our Long Knife Family to be involved with our family readiness groups and rear detachment lead-

ership over the coming months. They will be an invaluable resource for information not only at Fort Hood, but the activities of your Soldiers in Iraq.

Visit our public accessible website at:
www.hood.army.mil/1stcavdiv/units/4bct/index.htm.

Get to know your company FRG leader and the battalion Family Readiness Support Assistant. Along with the battalions' rear detachments, they will be able to assist you with any problems you may face. I encourage everyone to make plans now for block leave.

Be safe and spend quality time with your loved ones. I want everyone to be recharged spiritually and emotionally as we focus on our deployment.

Long Knife 6 Out!

Long Knife News

FROM THE EDGE

Soldiers assigned to 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, move through an area at the Joint Readiness Training Center in Fort Polk, La., March 20. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Damian Steptore, 4th BCT PAO, 1st Cav. Div.)



Col. Philip Battaglia 4th BCT Commander
CSM Edwin Rodriguez 4th BCT CSM
Maj. Chad Carroll Public Affairs Officer
Sgt. 1st Class Damian Steptore PAO NCOIC
Spc. Creighton Holub Editor
Pfc. Terence Ewings Photojournalist
Pvt. Rebekah Lampman TV Journalist

The *Long Knife News* is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. Army community. Contents of this newspaper are not necessarily the official view of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army, Fort Hood, or the 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division. The *Long Knife News* is prepared by the 4th BCT Public Affairs Office, 1st Cav. Div., Fort Hood, Texas.

4BCT ready for Iraq

Brigade conducts final training rotation in Louisiana

*By Sgt. 1st Class
Damian Steptore
4BCT PAO NCOIC*

FORT POLK, La. — The 1st Cavalry Division's newly reflagged 4th Brigade began its mission readiness exercise at the Joint Readiness Training Center with only a few hurdles to climb here March 11.

According to the 4th Brigade's executive officer, Lt. Col. Scott Gerber, the First Team set its newest brigade up for success.

"You've got to give those guys credit, the 1st Cavalry Division has helped us every step of the way with transferring over from the 4th Infantry Division and getting ready for this exercise," Gerber explained. "They have just returned from a 15-month deployment to Iraq, and immediately helped us resolve issues, such as providing essential resources for this training rotation."

Gerber says his unit is experiencing very few issues, despite reflagging to a new division along with approximately



Soldiers in the 1st Cavalry Division's new 4th Brigade Combat Team move vehicles to the Joint Readiness Training Center from the Fort Polk rail head March 12. (U.S. Army photo by Pvt. Rebekah Lampman, 4th BCT PAO, 1st Cav. Div.)

a 30 percent of personnel changing over.

As the unit's executive officer with 17 years of military experience, Gerber serves as the assistant to the brigade commander, Col. Philip Battaglia.

"I try to take care of the routine missions, so the brigade and battalion commanders can

focus on the critical tasks such as preparing their Soldiers for Iraq," the executive officer said.

Gerber, from Florence, Ore., assumed his current duties six months ago. He says his job is easy because the unit is full of good leaders, and Gerber has a long history with Cav's new 4th Brigade.

"I've been with this unit since we stood up in December of 2004, and we have Soldiers who deployed with the 4th Infantry Division, so that makes my job that much easier," Gerber said.

The Long Knives are set to use this JRTC rotation as a springboard for its scheduled summer deployment to Iraq.

Continue Living the Legend, see your battalion retention NCO for details

Long Knives wear hearts on sleeves

By Spc. Creighton Holub
4BCT PAO

The newest brigade in the 1st Cavalry Division now carries the traditions dating back from the mid 1800's, through the jungles of Vietnam and the urban warfare of Iraq on their sleeves.

1st Cav.'s 4th Brigade "Long Knives" also carry the history that includes the unit's battles in support of Task Force Eagle in Bosnia to Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"We're big men, doing big things," said Pfc. John Nast, a forward observer in the brigade headquarters. "We're just living the legend."

The 4th Brigade Combat Team began living the First Team legend with a three-week rotation to the Joint Readiness Training Center, Mar. 10.

Most of the Soldiers in the newly-re-flagged Long Knife Brigade completed a training rotation at Fort Irwin's National Training Center in November, but a third of the Soldiers currently in the brigade entered the unit after that training rotation.

Now, every Soldier in the brigade receive one major training event in preparation for



Pfc. John Nast and Pfc. Justin Dreyer, forward observers in the 4th Brigade Combat Team's personal security detachment show off their new division's shoulder sleeve insignia at the Joint Readiness Training Center, Fort Polk, La. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Creighton Holub, 4th BCT PAO, 1st Cavalry Division)

the unit's scheduled deployment to Iraq.

"The training at the JRTC is mentally preparing me for what will happen in Iraq," said Pfc. Jennifer Ramage, a human resources specialist in the 4th Special Troops Battalion headquarters. "This is more about what we're going to do in Iraq."

"I think it's kind of cool that I get to wear the 1st Cav. patch," Ram-

age continued. "One of my in-laws wore this patch in 1999, and said they would give me one of theirs to wear."

The First Team's new 4th Brigade Combat Team recently re-flagged from the 4th Inf. Div. to the 1st Cav. Div. – a unit known for wearing the traditional black Cavalry hat along with the 1st Cav.'s shoulder sleeve insignia.

Despite the uni-

form change, the brigade's mission for the scheduled deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom has not changed.

"It's the same unit, but we wear a different patch now," said Sgt. Will Daniels, a forward observer in the brigade's personal security detachment.

The reflag process was completed during a

— Patch continued on page 5

From the Pulpit

*By Chaplain (Maj.) Ray Bennett
Long Knife Brigade Chaplain*

The 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, deployed to the Joint Readiness Training Center with six chaplains and six chaplain assistants in a total of seven unit ministry teams.

This was a great opportunity for these teams to practice and refine concepts of religious support to their respective units and forward operating bases. Each team provided complex and comprehensive religious programs designed to reach the religious needs



**Chap. (Maj.)
Ray Bennett**

Bible studies, special Holy Week and Easter services and Catholic Masses. Every ministry team held at least one religious support event on its camp every three days.

of our Soldiers.

The religious programs provided by our ministry teams included regular worship services and

Chaplain (Capt.) Agustin Torm from Fort Hood came to the JRTC to ensure that our Catholic Soldiers had the opportunity to celebrate Easter within their tradition.

All our UMTS held special Palm Sunday and Holy Week services. Some of these services included special Good Friday services and Easter sunrise services.

JRTC has enhanced the training and skills of all 4th BCT UMTS and has prepared us for our future deployment to Iraq.

4th BCT trains on combat medicine

*By Pfc. Terence Ewings
4BCT PAO*

It takes a lot of time and effort to prepare Soldiers for combat. Soldiers assigned to the Brigade Headquarters, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division understand this first hand, while going through rigorous training to prepare for their scheduled deployment to Iraq in early June.

Here at Ft. Polk's

Joint Readiness Training Center, Mar. 18. 4th BCT Soldiers received familiarization training in several areas: dismounted operations, moving under direct fire and tactical combat casualty care.

"I believe I efficiently taught the class to the best of my ability," said Sgt. Javier Reyes, NCO-in-Charge of unit training. "This class is so important; at one point or

—— Medic continued on page 6



Spc. Jonathan Ewing and Pfc. Emmanuel Macon, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, demonstrate life saving tactics during a unit training class at JRTC. (U.S. Army photo by Pfc. Terence Ewings, 4th BCT PAO, 1st Cav. Div.)

Patch from page 4 — ceremony at the 1st Cav. Div. headquarters March 7. The old 4th Infantry Division version of the brigade colors were packed up and sent to Fort Carson, Colo., while the new 1st Cav. version of the

brigade colors were unfurled. The new guidons were among the few things to change in the unit; while the Soldiers, leaders and equipment remained with the Fort Hood unit.

"It's a great honor to be a part of two incredible units with

great histories," said Pfc. Oliver Park, a combat medic in the brigade headquarters troop.

As the Soldiers now sport one of the Army's most recognizable unit patches, they know the world is still watching them.

Signal Soldiers maintain communication assets

By Pfc. Terence Ewings
4BCT PAO

The Long Knife Brigade's computer specialists are keeping the unit's network and communication equipment ready for the challenges posed at the Joint Readiness Training Center here.

The 4th Brigade Combat Team's signal team recently overcame a critical challenge by reconfiguring computers and network components after the brigade reflagged to the 1st Cavalry Division earlier this month.

In order to properly conduct missions and scenarios here at the

JRTC, communication equipment had to be operating as soon as possible.

"When we reflagged, we took out all of the brigade's old information, and we changed everything into 1st Cav. Div.," said Sgt. 1st Class Andre Gary, a spectral analyst in the communications department. "Everybody stepped up and understood it needed to happen, and that it was vital to our success in JRTC."

Within 48 hours of hitting the ground, the signal Soldiers set up a tactical operations center and provided the Long Knife command with ways to communicate with subordi-

nate units via networked computers and radios.

As a result of the initial planning at Fort Hood and hard work at the JRTC, the signal team was able to configure the network with very few issues for the training rotation.

"The reflagging from the 4th Infantry Division to the 1st Cav. had little effect on communications here at JRTC," said Pfc. Angie Diaz, a computer systems administrator in the communications department.

The signal Soldiers' motivation and hard work prove that the brigade is ready for its upcoming deployment to Iraq this summer.

Easter Sunrise Service



Chaplain (Maj.) Ray Bennett, the chaplain of the 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, plays a spiritual tune while Chaplain (Capt.) Walter Marshall, the 4th Special Troops Battalion chaplain, holds the microphone and sheet music. Approximately 20 personnel, included a handful of Texas A&M University master's degree students studying the brigade's training attended the Easter sunrise service at the Joint Readiness Training Center in Fort Polk, La. (4th BCT PAO photo by Spc. Creighton Holub)

Medic from page 5 — another in Iraq, I experienced everything I taught to these Soldiers."

Reyes is a scout with more than six years of military experience. He believes Soldiers can learn from his classes because Reyes has served in Iraq and experienced combat first hand. "It all depends on the individual; whether or not they learn something," he said. "If they are motivated and

have the right direction, they can understand everything I teach."

Reyes was not the only instructor for these classes. He was assisted by Spc. Roberto Soliz, Spc. Jonathan Ewing and Spc. Phillip Airheart, also assigned to the 4th BCT. "We put our experiences together and combined them in order to efficiently teach these classes," said Airheart. "I am glad to be with a unit

that provides this sort of training."

"I wanted to make sure everybody learned how to apply first aid," said Ewing, a combat medic with more than six years of military experience. He also says the Soldiers were able to grasp the concepts of applying combat casualty care.

During the classes, Soldiers received hands-on training, such as

assessing, evaluating and treating a casualty. According to Ewing, assessing the casualty is one of the most important elements while providing initial care. "If you don't know how to assess the victim, then you don't know how to treat them," he added.

The 4th Brigade Soldiers provided familiarization classes to approximately 200 Soldiers during a three-day period.